IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems, by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to be provided by a storage system including the volume;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system; and

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems; and

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems against each other~~The volume management method according to claim 2~~,

wherein a correspondence is obtained from the storage system connected to the management computer, and

wherein the comparison of the characteristic information of respective volumes is also performed when a new correspondence is obtained from the first storage system.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems, by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to be provided by a storage system including the volume;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system; and

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems;

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems against each other; and~~The volume management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~

instructing the other storage system, based on the results of the comparison, to provide to the computer a volume having the characteristic information of the other storage system corresponding to the obtained level.

Claims 7-9 (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems, by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to be provided by a storage system including the volume;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system; and

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems; and

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems against each other~~The volume management method according to claim 1~~,

wherein, in a case where there are a plurality of specific performances, the comparison is performed using the highest level of performance.

Claims 11-13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A method of managing a volume of a first storage system connected to a computer via a first network, and a volume of a second storage system connected to the first storage system, by a management computer connected to the first storage system and the second storage system via a second network, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between a level indicating a specific performance of each volume and storage system characteristics indicating a performance of a storage system including the volume, for each of the storage systems;

obtaining a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the first storage system, and a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the second storage system connected to the volume of the first storage system;

comparing the storage system characteristics corresponding to the obtained level;

storing data stored in the volume of the second storage system into the volume of the first storage system, based on the results of the comparison,

wherein the comparison of the storage system characteristics is performed by obtaining mapping information indicating that the volume of the first storage system is connected to the volume of the second storage system, based on the mapping information; and~~The volume management method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:~~

when the result of the comparison indicate that the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level indicating the specific performance of the volume of the second storage system is better

than the storage system characteristics of the second storage system, storing the data into the volume having a specific performance, based on the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level of the first storage system.

15. (currently amended) A method of managing a volume of a first storage system connected to a computer via a first network, and a volume of a second storage system connected to the first storage system, by a management computer connected to the first storage system and the second storage system via a second network, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between a level indicating a specific performance of each volume and storage system characteristics indicating a performance of a storage system including the volume, for each of the storage systems;

obtaining a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the first storage system, and a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the second storage system connected to the volume of the first storage system;

comparing the storage system characteristics corresponding to the obtained level;

storing data stored in the volume of the second storage system into the volume of the first storage system, based on the results of the comparison,

wherein the comparison of the storage system characteristics is performed by obtaining mapping information indicating that the volume of the first storage system is connected to the volume of the second storage system,

based on the mapping information, and~~The volume management method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:~~

wherein when the result of the comparison indicate that the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level indicating the specific performance of the volume of the second storage system is better than the storage system characteristics of the second storage system, storing the data into the volume having a specific performance, based on the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level of the first storage system; and

instructing the first storage system to erase the mapping information.

Claim 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A first storage system connected to a computer via a network, comprising:

a volume connected to a volume of another storage system storing data used by the computer;

a memory for keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to be provided by a storage system including the volume; and

a control unit for controlling access made to the first storage system or the other storage system from the computer,

wherein the control unit obtains the level indicating the specific characteristic information of the volume of the other storage system, references the characteristic information corresponding to the first value

among the plurality of storage system, and compares the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems~~The first storage system according to claim 16~~, and

wherein based on the result of the comparison, the data is stored into a volume having the storage system characteristics corresponding to the value of a level indicating the characteristic information of the volume of the first storage system.

Claims 18-20 (canceled).